

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/579,775 Confirmation No. : 5722  
First Named Inventor : Anthony Peter HULBERT  
Filed : November 18, 2004  
TC/A.U. : 2617  
Examiner : Amanuel Lebassi  
Docket No. : 038819.57537US  
Title : Method of Communication in a Time Division Duplex (TDD)  
Satellite Communication System

**REPLY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 30, 2010, reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-12 remain pending and are rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,668,556 to Rouffet et al. ("Rouffet") and U.S. Patent No. 6,570,858 to Emmons, Jr. et al. ("Emmons"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Rouffet and Emmons does not render claim 1 obvious because the combination does not disclose or suggest at least the following element of claim 1:

when the transmit time slot for one terminal causes a transmission from that one terminal to be received at another terminal overlapped in time with a receive time slot allocated for the other terminal, then those ***two terminals are spaced apart in distance***, such that an interference path between the two terminals is negligible.<sup>1</sup>

The Office Action cites column 6, line 65-column 7, line 20 of Rouffet for the disclosure that when the transmit and receive time slots for two terminals

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<sup>1</sup> Emphasis added.